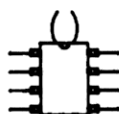


South Bay Users Group

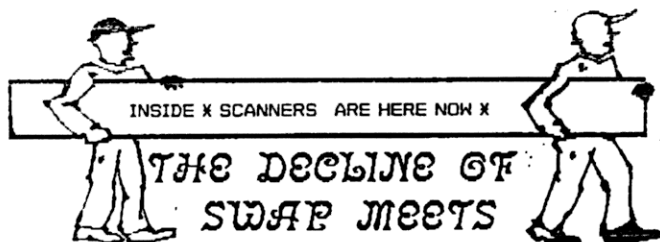
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DYNAMIC MEMORIES

FEBRUARY

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SBUG STEERING COMMITTEE

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Treasurer:	Henry Schulze	HENRY	(408) 866-5731
Editor:	Joel Lee	EDITOR	(408) 926-3999
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Technik:	Frank Vanslager		(408) 257-3647

OTHER KEY INDIVIDUALS Cover designer: Wright Huntley

Host computer: SBUG ALL (408) 249-8259

If the need arises feel free to give anyone of us a call.

THE EDITOR'S BYTES AND BITES

So what's new? Would you like a scanner, a fax machine or a CD Rom disk? The scanner and the CD Rom are almost certainly in your future. The fax machine will probably become an indispensable part of even small offices.

Scanners have been around for some time but they were expensive and their use was limited because their comprehension was limited. What does a scanner do? With a scanner you can transmit information directly from the printed page to your computer. I am sure that all of you have spent many squirming (depending on your skill at the keyboard) hours copying something printed into your computer. Scanners now will read most print as well as photographs and drawings. There is more on page four about scanners.

CD Roms will be the ultimate mass storage device. Imagine having the Encyclopedia Britannica on a disk! They are coming ever closer to being a reality for us on our computers.

Faxes (facsimile machines) can now be connected to micros for the transmission of all types of data via modem.

So there you are at your computer keyboard; you copy a page from "Computer Frolics" into Ram, call your good friend lcky and fax the page to him via modem. You'll keep it on your CD Rom because with a gigabyte of storage you no longer worry about storage.

SBUG Financial Statement
January 24, 1988

Receipts:	January	Y-T-Date	% Used	Budget
Members dues	40.00	40.00	5.00%	800.00
Disk Library	2.00	2.00	1.33%	150.00
Load80	0.00	.00	.00%	300.00
Documentation	0.00	.00	.00%	25.00
Interest	0.00	.00	.00%	25.00
Miscellaneous	30.00	30.00	15.00%	200.00
	<hr/>			
Total Receipts	72.00	72.00	4.80%	1500.00

Disbursements:

Phone	42.29 *	42.29	28.19%	150.00
Utilities	0.00	.00	.00%	120.00
Printing	0.00	.00	.00%	100.00
Postage	0.00	.00	.00%	130.00
P O Box	0.00	.00	.00%	29.00
Bank charges	0.00	.00	.00%	24.00
Disk Library	0.00	.00	.00%	120.00
Documentation	0.00	.00	.00%	50.00
Load80 Subscription	0.00	.00	.00%	150.00
SBUG BBS Repairs	0.00	.00	.00%	100.00
Misc. Expenses	0.00	.00	.00%	125.00
	<hr/>			
Total Disbursements	42.29	42.29	3.85%	1098.00
Beginning Cash Balance	828.41	828.41	100.00%	828.41
Net Receipts	29.71	29.71	7.39%	402.00
Ending Balance	858.12	858.12	69.74%	1230.41

*amount includes regular charge of \$8.23 + \$34.06 for telephone transfer to new location.

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faxes without interrupting the other PC programs you're using. You can even schedule outgoing faxes to take advantage of lower late-night 'phone rates for transmission to distribution lists all over the world. ---"

If your spirit has been moved you may contact:

THE COMPLETE PC
521 Cottonwood Drive
Milpitas, CA 95035
(408) 434-1048

I leafed through PC MAGAZINE with considerable care. This was the only scanner offered in its pages for this issue at least. There was one other faxer, from Panasonic, no price quoted. Incidentally, I hate ads that don't quote prices. The Kohinoor diamond, OK, they might want to bargain a bit there, but not with computer software and peripherals.

SLAVES OF THE LAMP

As with most complex computer things, getting a '386 is only the beginning. I had the board installed and was advised that if I didn't upgrade the HD controller I would be losing a lot. So of course I upgraded the controller.

As all who read these lines know, the '386 with 2 Meg memory didn't really do a lot for me. It ran a little faster. I could set up a one Meg. ramdisk as drive D. There were quite a few things I could have done with that setup if I had wanted to work at it. I didn't.

I bought 386TO THE MAX and began to enjoy some of the fruits of my high technology. MAX gave me 704K working under DOS, made the entire computer work faster by reassigning memory and turned my extended memory into expanded memory. For a while WORD PERFECT was loading into expanded memory and of course ran very fast indeed.

For a while? That's because I experimented with MACE's CACHE-EM. This made everything run fast. Almost everything is instantaneous. According to what I had read caching was better for most things, not so good for some things and could in a few cases actually be slower. Not so when it runs out of expanded memory. Running Word Perfect out of expanded memory made Word Perfect very fast. Running with Cache-em makes everything fast. The curious thing to me is that when I first started the cache took up all available expanded memory. I made some changes in my autoexec file and now it doesn't. Word Perfect's memory map tells

ODDS AND ENDS OF NEWSLETTER COMPOSING

Much of the following may be applicable to what you may be doing in your social, business or political life. (I will not venture further into what you may be doing with your life). Some of it is peculiar to publishing. Life does have its little turns and twists and who knows-- you might find yourself publishing and under the gun or under a deadline one of these days. Pay attention.

I usually use a daisywheel printer for the newsletter because of the quality of the type. Daisywheels don't [effectively] do graphics though, so for those I have to revert to the dot matrix (Epson EX-1000) that I bought especially for that purpose. I also bought a program called NICE PRINT with TWIST PRINT because it was advertised to do better work with a dot matrix printer than the printer could do itself. TWIST PRINT will print horizontally. When you need it it's handy but for most people the need is very occasional.

This page is being printed with NICE PRINT. I've checked NP's product against the NLQ of the Epson and there's not really that much difference between them. NP's best feature is "Backslash Active". This enables you to embed printer escape codes at any point in the text. If you don't know what printer escape codes are, you have an ally in me. I spent months looking for escaping printers both mechanical and human. None even turned up. Successful escapes. Any way, an escape code is a command sent to the printer. Mechanical printer that is, why don't they say that? *It's nice to be able to italicize.*

I have run into a problem. Some of the escape sequences just don't work even when NP's sequences agree with the Epson (and they don't always).

This is italicized.

This is not.

This is bold.

This is not.

This is bold italic.

This is bold ~~Apple~~ italic.

This is normal.

This is big Script.

This is big Script italic.

This is ordinary.

You can see the interesting possibilities because these can be introduced into the text by the use of the backslash at any

given moment. This

makes for

a wide variety of possibilities, changes in style and attention getting modes. It will not create a Shakespeare but being the type he was Shakespeare wouldn't have hesitated to use it had it been available to him.

To be or not to be--

It runs trippingly on the paper as well as on the tongue.

If I had a 24 pin printer I would produce the entire newsletter on it and NICEPRINT and the graphics could be nicely integrated. If I use the graphics I have to use the dot matrix, and if I want to get really clear print I have to use the daisy wheel.

The upgrade to WORD PERFECT is supposed to come out in March. It will be able to do graphics and merge with graphics programs' files-- deponent sayeth not WHICH programs' graphics files, and we all know the tune that goes with that one.

The price of laser printers continues to drop-- slow-oh-ly. Laser printers are also expensive to maintain and to use according to my understanding. From my point of view the 24 pin dot matrix is the best all around deal. It uses a long established technology, it gives you letter quality print AND it can do graphics. The only drawback, and it doesn't affect me to any extent running a '386 is its memory demands especially doing graphics. If WORD PERFECT 5.0 goes like a rocket, and I have every confidence it will, I'll have a hard time not putting myself in hock for a 24 pin printer.

Presently I print the apartment complex's letter head using FONTASY and the Epson (dot matrix). Then I go into WP, crank my paper into the Daisywriter (daisywheel) and print out my correspondence. It looks pretty nice, really quite professional, but it's a cranky way to do things. Some of what I do with DYNAMIC MEMORIES is done the same way, except when I want to do something special by way of illustration, as now, and I use the Epson, FONTASY and NICEPRINT for several successive pages.

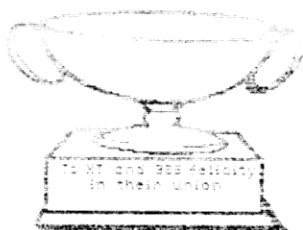
Some printers have a quad density feature which really turns out nice graphics. My Epson does and I thought it would be interesting to print a graphics image with and without the quad feature so that you can see the difference.

without further ado I present:

This symbolizes the marriage of the XT to the 386
quad density:



and this is not:



IT DOS'NT WORK THE WAY IT SHOULD

As most of you know, the '386 processor is a system looking for a DOS. To date the possibilities are; OS/2, PCMDOS/386, Concurrent DOS, WINDOWS386 and DESQVIEW. A lot has been published about OS/2, enough to convince me that I don't want it as a gift, much less at \$195.00. I have read 3 articles on PCMDOS/386. There is no disagreement amongst them that PCMDOS is slow and not very handy. It also sells in the \$200.00 range.

Of the DOSes, Concurrent DOS seems to be the best bet. Here are quotes from a COMPUTER SHOPPER article "TAPPING THE POWER OF THE '386" by Peter Ruber.

"CDOS does not require a system manager. The operating system is self installing. It automatically senses how much memory your system has and it divides this into system memory and paged memory blocks. It also senses what I/O ports and peripherals are attached to the host. The operating system can be run from the command line (a la DOS) or from the File Manager which is a 'shell' window environment which is ideal for novices. Many system functions (such as CHKDSK) can be called up directly through the use of function keys. Though much more advanced than DOS it is easier to learn and use."

That last sentence is a convincer for us retards. Ruber further states:

"With the exceptions of a few minor commands, CDOS is fully DOS command compatible. It has also added a host of new commands that allow users to perform advanced operations, such as cutting windows and being able to write window menus (or 'shells') through a built in utility, so that DOS operations and application processing can be performed at work stations without the user knowing how a DOS works. CDOS will run 100% of all existing DOS applications."

Ruber has written four parts of what I believe will be a six part series on Concurrent Dos. He doesn't gush over CDOS. He is familiar with OS/2 and points out a couple of things in OS/2 that are better than their similars oor not available in CDOS.

How much does CDOS cost? I have an uneasy feeling that as it is written for corporations it will have a price that only corporations can pay. Sometime, somewhere, I will have to have a look at CDOS and find out if it's something the ordinary user will be interested in. Price aside, it sounds good.

For the meantime WINDOWS386 and DESQVIEW are the choices. It is

generally agreed that DESQVIEW is superior. One thing to think about is that WINDOWS may lead into other similar products (updates) and one would therefore be on the right path buying WINDOWS now, even though it is not actually the best existing software.

I am very anxious to work with DESQVIEW and expect to do so shortly. Inasmuch as DESQVIEW will open windows, use the protected mode and address all available memory, I don't see that a new DOS is going to give the '386 user a great deal more. In my case I am mostly interested in the protected mode so that I can run all my TSR's (Terminate and Stay Resident) programs simultaneously. Of course that will use up more than 640K memory. As it is 386MAX gives me 704K memory and uses it more advantageously but when I tried loading all my favorite TSR's I ran out of memory. PERFECT WORD gives you an accounting of what programs occupy what space and naughty, naughty, naughty, the advertisements for the TSR's are prone to fib about how much memory their little darlings chew up. It's almost always more than they say.

Running the '386 I've learned something about speed. As it came out of the box the board speeded a few things up. Action tended to be just a little crisper. Then I added 386MAX and things speeded up some more. Then I put Mace Utilities Em-Cache in the autoexec file and the speed up was very noticeable.

Bat files, no matter how long, are instantaneous. Presumably that's because they're operating directly from DOS. I do understand that video memory is slower and that is where in some instances the '386 is not noticeably faster than the XT.

WHAT GOES UP MUST COME DOWN?

In browsing through the pages of any computer magazine one has to be impressed with the number of companies producing clones and with the prices they are offering them for. Given that they do a lot of manoeuvring with their verbiage to give you the impression that you're off and running with an AT clone for less than \$1,000, prices have still come way, way down. If you think you're going to get a full featured AT clone for under \$1,000.00 just take one more little run to the bank.

PC MAGAZINE studied 21 AT clones under \$2,000.00. They do have several with 640K, 20Meg. Hd., 1 floppy and monochrome monitor at under \$1,500.00. That's awfully cheap for an AT. COMPUTER SHOPPER has an ad from MICROSMART for an AT clone at 1399.95. This is advertised as operating at 10Mhz, 512K, a floppy of your choice (5 1/4 or 3 1/2), amber monitor with tilt and swivel, and a multi I/O card. A two year warranty on electronics cards and 15 months

on mechanicals is included. Of course you've heard of MICROSMART. You haven't? That's the trouble. They may be the most solid company in the clone market. Of course I remember the Ginsu knife with its lifetime guarantee. They sold about a million and then went bankrupt. No aspersions intended Mr. Smart of MICROSMART.

SWAPMEETING
or
WHERE'S EVERYBODY?

I mean the swap meet at the Santa Clara fairgrounds held on 1/23/88. The hall was about 2/3 full of exhibits. There was a respectable attendance but not a crowd. I'm sure they made money and I'm sure the exhibitors made out. I did notice that it was a buying crowd. Most people had come with the idea they were going to buy something specific. In many ways it was better than before. It was possible to see what you wanted to see it was possible to get through to see and buy what you wanted to buy and it was possible to get a seat in the restaurant. It was even possible to get the salesperson's attention.

There was hardly an CGA monitor to be seen. Those who wished to show off their wares would naturally pick the best monitor they could afford to show them off with. What this means is that the EGA is now affordable.

I don't know what the star of the show was for most people but for me it had to be the scanner. I couldn't get a brochure pm it but the salesman did put it's paces. This has to be the most useful peripheral to come along in the last two years. I would trade five mice for one scanner. They sell for \$250.00 including software.

What does the scanner do? Just run the scanner over print or graphics and it instantly appears on the monitor. Of course it can be loaded into a file. There is a current limitation. It transmits a path 2 1/2 inches wide. This is about 25 letters. If, for example you wanted to put this newsletter into your computer via scanner you couldn't do it because it is 73 columns wide. I understand that they are working on software that will permit the user to run up and down the page and the columns will automatically adjust.

If you have copied as much material into the computer via keyboard as I have you are ready for a scanner.

I also found a gentleman from Santa Cruz who was selling a 24 pin NEC printer for \$595.00. That is not so remarkable. It was

unusual that he was willing to take my Epson EX-1000 in trade. Although we didn't discuss terms I know that I would have hold of the short end. Perhaps one of you is interested in an Epson EX-1000? It's a good printer, almost new, has given me no trouble but I have a raging desire for a 24 pin printer.

Amongst the software offered was SIDEVIEW. I got to talking in the restaurant with an aficionado who thought it was great. Here is the information given on the card:

WHY SIDEVIEW IS THE #1 VALUE IN MENU SYSTEMS

Sideview is the only truly customizable menu system.
No limit to the number of menu screens or menu options.
Sideware is not memory resident. Sideview claims no overhead and is compatible with all PC software.
Sideware is fast! Written in assembly language, Sideview speeds you to your destination.
Sideview is inexpensive. Ask about our show special price!
Sideware comes complete with full support and 100% money-back guarantee!

I watched the demo and couldn't see anything that I couldn't do just as well with bat files. I have a feeling that this gentleman is going to hear from Borland who also has a program called Sideview.

There were two stands featuring "user supported software". I don't like to talk this down. Thousands of clever, competent people have gone into this field and I know there have to be good programs out there, but to date they haven't helped me much. I have PC-FILE PLUS. I use it for my addresses. When I decided to use it to keep track of occasional workers' hours I found that I couldn't erase the data files and reuse the format as I can with REFLEX, and as I could with AIDS. It's easier to set up than REFLEX is. With REFLEX I have to go to the manual and do some head scratching each time I put in a new database. With PC-FILE PLUS you just follow the menus. But every time a new fortnight came along it was necessary to rewrite the whole database, the records couldn't be erased beyond access.

The Byte Bandits had advertising at the entrance but no computer club had a stand.

This of course brings to the fore an obvious question. Are the swap meets on their way out? Was the attendance (and the exhibitors) relatively sparse because there are so many swap meets? Is the interest just not there? Certainly there are more and more computers and more and more computerists both in business and

privately. I think the XT is the Model A of computing. It's inexpensive, it's fast and it will do everything that small businesses and organizations need. It is said that IBM is selling more Model 30's than any other model. The 30 is nothing but an enhanced XT.

People who buy computers now regard them as a tool, to possess, one is to join the main stream. Very few of them are interested in them as a hobby. If you own a Ford do you join a Ford club?

CONFESSION

Yes, I spent too much at the swap meet. I bought:

1. A case which supports the CPU, drives and monitor and into which the keyboard may be slid.
2. A book, **WORD PERFECT, SECRETS, SOLUTIONS, SHORTCUTS.**
3. **FIRST PUBLISHER.**

I don't know why I wanted the case, but it looks neat on my desk.

The book is another thing. There is nothing wrong with the manual that comes with **WORD PERFECT**. It is complete, it is understandable. Actually I have two manuals for WP, one for the basic system and one for the library. They are very large and unwieldy when you work in a rather cramped space as computer aeries almost invariably are. I have to have something that I can grab and leaf through quickly.

I had been working with The **POWER OF WORD PERFECT 4.2** by Rob Krumm. I think it's good, it served me and I had no intention of looking for anything else. As I must, when I see a book I browsed through the books on exhibit and encountered WP secrets, etc. It is excellent. As much progress as I have made with WP there is a lot I have not taken advantage of.

WP secrets I am sure will be of enormous use. It is a thick book, but not too thick to be manageable. The layout is excellent. Let us look at **SEARCH**. First a very lucid explanation of the search facility is given with specifics as to WP and to forward and backward searches. Tips (labelled **TIP**) are given and traps (labelled **TRAP**) are given.

In the case of **SEARCH: TIP**: Make sure you're searching in the right direction.

TRAP: Don't press **ENTER** unless you want to include the hard return in a search string.

I think you'll agree that it's a good concept.

South Bay TRS-80 Users Group
P.O. Box 60116
Sunnyvale, Ca 94088

FIRST CLASS MAIL